

Colonial Ave. / Wonju St. City of Roanoke

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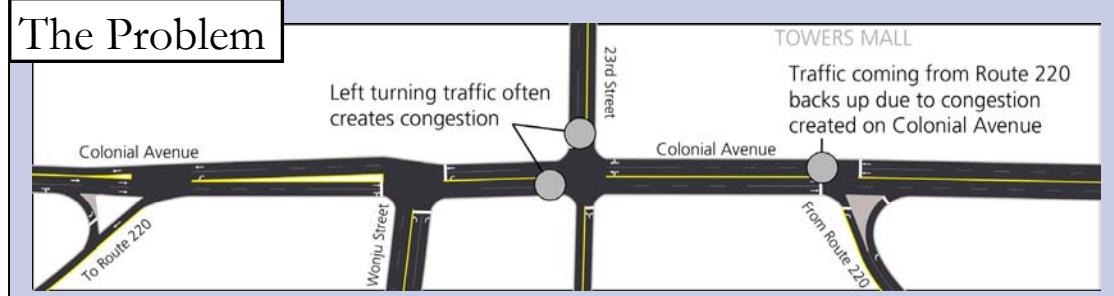
October 4, 2005 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Fishburn Park Elementary School

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) welcomes you to a Citizen Information Meeting about current congestion problems on Colonial Avenue and Wonju Street in the City of Roanoke.

By resolution of the Roanoke City Council, a project was added to the 1999 Six Year Improvement Plan that was proposed to extend Wonju Street to Brandon Avenue. Two conceptual alternatives for this were developed based on early long range planning efforts by the City and by VDOT. As these alternatives were developed, the right of way impacts and the cost estimates of the alternatives grew significantly above what was originally planned. This fact spurred the development of a Transportation System Management (TSM) alternative to alleviate the congestion rather than traditional construction. This TSM approach is presented at this meeting as a third alternative and one that is expected to significantly improve congestion at a greatly reduced cost. Graphic displays generated from various traffic models depict the level of improvement and how traffic congestion will be reduced for each of the alternatives. Please be reminded that these displays are conceptual in nature and depict lane configurations and traffic patterns only, not actual limits of construction.

We want to hear from you about how you may be affected by these improvements as well as which alternative you prefer. Comment sheets are available at this meeting and from local VDOT offices, and we encourage your input.

The Problem



The increasing traffic volumes and resulting congestion in and around the intersections of Colonial Avenue and Wonju Street and the southbound off-ramp from Route 220 (Roy L. Weber Expressway) to Colonial Avenue demonstrate the need to improve traffic flow in this area.

Currently, motorists use 23rd Street, S.W., a portion of which is a privately-owned street, to travel between Brandon and Colonial avenues. The increasing volume of traffic and congestion along Colonial Avenue presently causes traffic to back up on the off-ramp from southbound Route 220 during peak travel hours, adversely impacting the capacity of Route 220. This is an undesirable situation because Route 220 is a limited access arterial

highway, and motorists do not expect to see stopped traffic. Additionally, Colonial Avenue traffic congestion occurs due to the offset between existing intersections at Wonju and 23rd Streets.



Traffic backs up into the travel lanes on the Route 220 Expressway.

PROJECT INFORMATION

From:
Colonial Avenue

To:
Brandon Avenue

State Project:
**U000-128-127, P101, R201,
C501**

PPMS: 19029

Federal Project:
STP-5128(178)

Representatives from the Virginia Department of Transportation are present to discuss the proposed project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For further information, contact VDOT, Salem District Office of Civil Rights, 731 Harrison Ave., Salem, VA 24153, or call (540) 387-5320, toll free (800) 611-5812, or TDD 711.

Some Possible Solutions

The Virginia Department of Transportation and the City of Roanoke have developed three alternatives to address this problem. We are seeking input from citizens as to which alternative would be the best short-term and long-term solution and provide the best use of limited transportation funding.

Alternatives one and two involve the extension of Wonju Street, which would be classified as an “urban minor arterial” roadway, serving travel needs across the greater Roanoke area. These two alternatives would provide the most direct access from Brandon Avenue to Route 220 and would eliminate the intersection of 23rd Street with Colonial Avenue. Both of these alternatives would have significant right of way impacts.

In Alternative 1, a new roadway would be constructed to extend Wonju Street to Brandon Avenue. Wonju Street would merge with Brandon Avenue. A portion of the current alignment of Brandon Avenue along the northern side of Towers Mall would be re-aligned to create an intersection with the extended Wonju Street. As part of the new roadway, a connection to 23rd Street would be provided. This alternative would change the through movement from Brandon Avenue to Wonju Street. The estimated cost for Alternative 1 is approximately \$21 million.

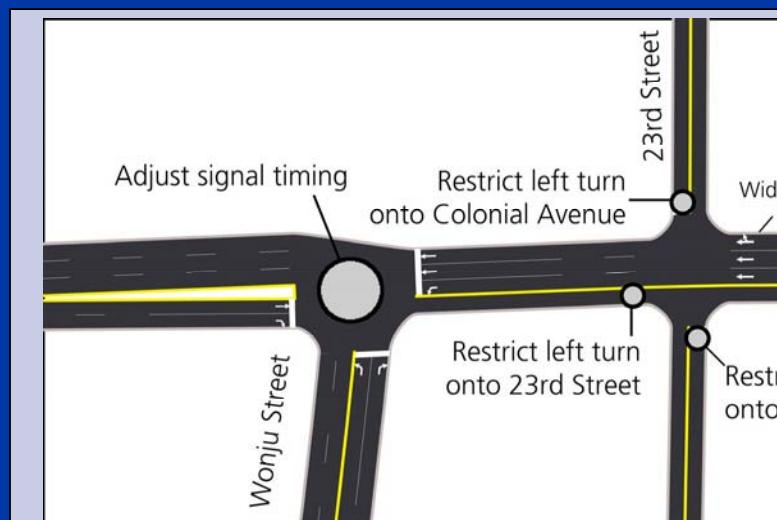
In Alternative 2, a new roadway would be constructed to extend Wonju Street to Brandon Avenue. The intersection with Brandon Avenue would include a traffic signal. As in Alternative 1, a side road would connect Wonju Street to 23rd Street. The estimated cost for Alternative 2 is approximately \$18 million.

In Alternative 3, the timing for signals on Colonial Avenue at Wonju Street and the southbound Route 220 off-ramp would be adjusted and coordinated to allow for better traffic flow through both intersections. Additionally, left turning movements would be restricted at the intersection of Colonial Avenue and 23rd Street. Motorists would no longer be permitted to turn left from Colonial Avenue onto 23rd Street. Motorists also would be prohibited from turning left onto Colonial Avenue from 23rd Street. As part of this alternative, the off-ramp from southbound Route 220 as well as Colonial Avenue from the Route 220 off-ramp to the Route 220 on-ramp would be widened. Right of way impacts associated with this alternative are expected to be relatively minor. In fact, the majority of the work can be accomplished within existing right of way. The estimated cost for Alternative 3 is between \$1 and \$2 million.

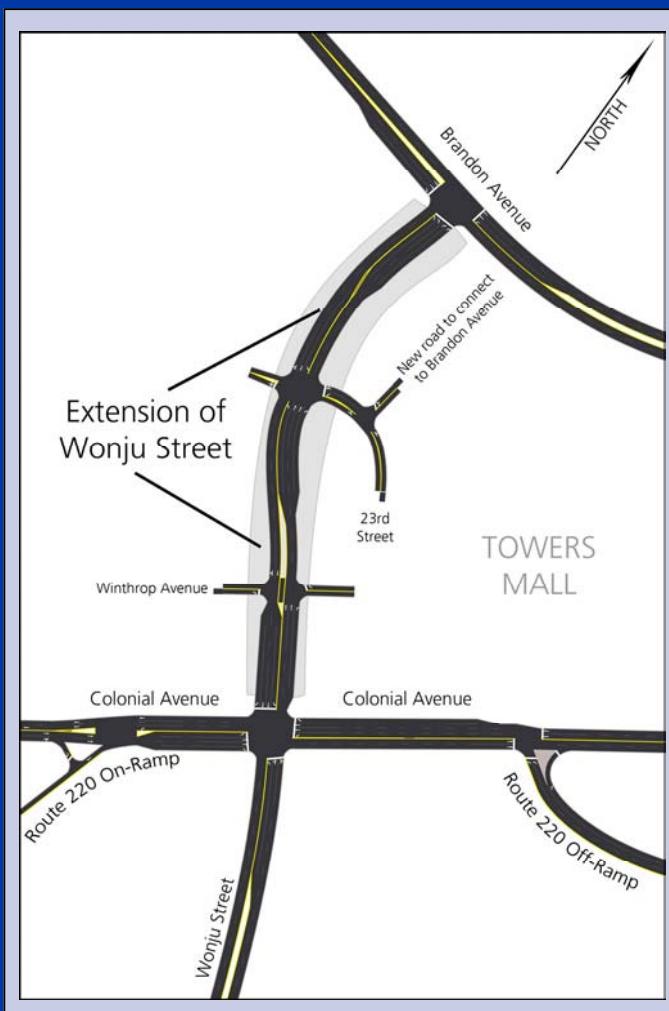
Alternative 1: Extend Wonju Street to merge with Brandon Avenue



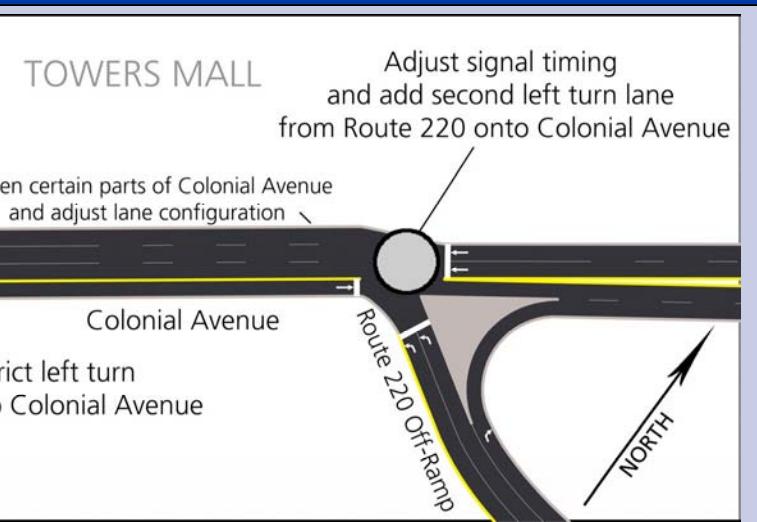
Alternative 3: Restrict turning movements, adjust signal timing and widen roads



Alternative 2: Extend Wonju Street to intersect at Brandon Avenue



Existing movements on 23rd Street, eastern part of Colonial Avenue



Meeting Displays

The purpose of the Citizen Information Meeting displays is to give a general idea of each improvement alternative.

Displays show lane configuration and traffic patterns, but do not represent actual construction limits or right of way limits. These displays are intended to convey the general scope and concept of the alternatives. Right of way limits and constructions limits will be defined as plans are developed.



During peak times, traffic is often very congested on Colonial Avenue from the Route 220 Expressway off-ramp all the way to Wonju Street.



Cars on Colonial Avenue waiting to turn left onto 23rd street cause congestion into the intersection at Wonju Street.

What's Next?

Ten days after this meeting, the public comment period will close. At that time, VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information and comments received as a result of the meeting.

Roanoke City Council will be asked to provide a resolution on its recommendations for the project before VDOT proceeds to the next step in the development process. The schedule of any additional public meetings depends greatly on the alternative chosen. Advance public notice will be provided for these meetings.



At peak times, traffic coming off the Route 220 Expressway stacks up into the intersection at Colonial Avenue.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

The schedule for this project will depend on which alternative is pursued. Alternatives 1 and 2 will take several years to go through the Preliminary Engineering and Right of Way stages, while most aspects of Alternative 3 can begin construction within a year.

Additional Information

Project information shared here is available for review after the Citizen Information Meeting at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave. in Salem, (540) 387-5320, or at VDOT's Salem Residency Office located at 714 S. Broad St. in Salem, (540) 387-5488.

Written comments and other exhibits related to the proposed project may be submitted in place of or in addition to statements made at the Citizen Information Meeting. Such information must be postmarked or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days (on or before Oct. 14, 2005) of today's meeting. Please send written comments to:

**Virginia Department of Transportation
Mr. Richard Caywood, P.E.
Salem District Administrator
731 Harrison Ave.
P.O. Box 3071
Salem, VA 24153
Telephone: (540) 387-5320
TDD/TTY: 711**

Questions concerning VDOT's policy on obtaining right of way should be directed to:

**Mr. Jack P. Orr
Salem District Right of Way Manager
Virginia Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 3071
Salem, VA 24153
Telephone: 540-387-5366 or toll free 800-611-5812**

Please call prior to visiting to assure the availability of staff to assist you.